LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the centrifuge retention capacity property of an in situ wet-laid water sorptive product, said method comprising:

~~(1)~~(a) forming an aqueous suspension comprising a slurry of

(i) a potentially water swellable polymer component; and

(ii) a fibrous component; ~~and~~ wherein the weight ratio of said polymer component to said fibrous component is controlled to be in a range from about 90: 10 to about 5: 95;

~~(2)~~(b) forming a composite product from said suspension;

~~(3)~~(c) contacting said composite product with an amount of an aqueous solution of a neutralizing agent sufficient to achieve a partial degree of neutralization of the acid groups of the polymer component of said composite product; and

~~(4)~~(d) drying said neutralized composite product to achieve a water sorptive product of superabsorbent polymer component with fibrous component, said water sorptive product having improved centrifuge retention capacity properties.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the potentially water swellable polymer component comprises the reaction product of:

(a) an olefinically-unsaturated acid selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, and mixtures thereof;

(b) a compatible co-monomer for the acid of (a); and

(c) a cross-linking agent; said reaction product

(i) being water insoluble and

(ii) having carboxyl groups present therein, which carboxyl groups, when neutralized to their salt form, maintain the polymer as water insoluble and convert the polymer component into a superabsorbent polymer component.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the partial neutralization in step (3) is less than about 80 mol %.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the neutralizing agent in step (3) is selected from the group consisting of bases, amines, and combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, further including a surface cross-linking treatment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the water sorptive product has a centrifuge retention capacity property above about 10 grams/gram.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the water sorptive product has an absorbency under load property above about 13 grams/gram at about 20 grams/cm^2 (about 0.3 psi).

14. (New) A method for making a water sorptive product using a wet-lay process comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing a pre-superabsorbent polymer and a fiber; and

(b) partially neutralizing the pre-superabsorbent polymer after the mixing of the pre-superabsorbent polymer with the fiber during the wet-laid process of making a web, thereby making the water sorptive product exhibiting a superior centrifuge retention capacity property.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the partially neutralizing of the pre-superabsorbent polymer comprises to a degree of neutralization less than about 80 mol %.

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16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the pre-superabsorbent polymer comprises a reaction product of:

(a) an olefinically-unsaturated acid selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid, a sulfonic acid, and mixtures thereof;

(b) a compatible co-monomer for the acid of (a); and

(c) a cross-linking agent; said reaction product

(i) being water insoluble and

(ii) having carboxyl groups present therein, which carboxyl groups, when neutralized to their salt form, maintain the polymer as water insoluble and convert the polymer component into a superabsorbent polymer component.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of surface cross-linking the neutralized pre-superabsorbent polymer.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the water sorptive product has a centrifuge retention capacity property above 10 grams/gram.

19. (New) The water sorptive product of claim 14, wherein the water sorptive product has an absorbency under load property above about 13 grams/gram at about 20 grams/cm^2 (about 0.3 psi).